

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5658
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2001
DONATION OF EYE
MOHAN RAWALE

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of the general hospitals in each State which motivate eye donation by counselling relatives of deceased patients within their wards;
- (b) the recorded number of such eye donations made in the year 2000, State-wise and Hospital-wise;
- (c) the reasons for not making a mandatory request to relatives of all deceased patients for eye donation immediately after death; and
- (d) the reasons for not mandatorily link up with a registered eye bank nearest to the hospital and organize for timely eye collection in case consent to donate eyes is received ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (d): As per information available from the Eye Bank Association of India (EBAI), there are about 19,000 corneas collected per year against a demand of 100,000 corneas per year. The State-wise details of collection of eyes as provided by EBAI is given at annexure. The reasons for the poor response in eye donation are misconception, prejudice and short time available for removal of the eye (4-6 hrs.). Other factors responsible are lack of awareness and poor communication. The Human Organ Transplantation Act 1994 is being considered for amendment so as to simplify the process of obtaining consent for donation of eyes, through no specific time frame can be given for its implementation at the present time.

The following other efforts are being undertaken to increase the rate of collection of corneas:

• Efforts are being made to link up registered Eye Banks and the nearby hospitals to achieve timely collection of eye after receiving the consent.

• Radio and Television Media Network is being utilized to create awareness amongst the masses regarding eye donation.

• The country observes a national fortnight on eye donation every year, between from 25th August - 8th September. During this fortnight, intensified publicity through all available media is given to step up the eye donations.

• The focus has now been shifted from 'pledging of eyes' to actual collection of eyes by launching the 'Hospital Retrieval Programme' in major multi specialty hospitals in Government and Non Government Sectors, Army, Railways, ESI etc. This is expected to enhance the collection of donated eyes. Wide publicity is given in Trauma Centres, ICU and Cancer Centres.

• The cooperation of staff of other departments like social welfare, education, publicity and public relations are being sought to make the program more effective.

• NGO participation is also being encouraged to setup Eye Banks.

ANNEXURE

STATE-WISE STATISTICS OF CORNEA COLLECTION BY THE MEMBER EYE BANKS OF EBAI

Sl. No.	STATE	Eye collected in 1996	Eye collected in 1997	Eye collected in 1998	Eye collected in 1999	Eye collected in 2000
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1	Andhra Pradesh	650	1114	1040	917	1306
2	Assam	0	0	Not reported	Not reported	0
3	Bihar	20	26	28	68	17
4	Chandigarh	109	150	200	225	246
5	Delhi	691	914	846	997	881
6	Gujarat	5259	5430	5133	588	6078
7	Haryana	20	20	10	Not reported	168
8	Karnataka	709	655	723	776	842
9	Kerala	345	324	238	206	264
10	Maharashtra	2134	1896	2700	1477	4189
11	Madhya Pradesh	298	277	310	456	408
12	Orissa	6	27	Not reported	Not reported	0
13	Punjab	659	714	752	100	199
14	Rajasthan	105	44	47	143	218
15	Tamil Nadu	1776	2145	2534	1201	3359
16	Uttar Pradesh	212	32	319	224	214
17	West Bengal	410	352	214	296	531
18	Pondicherry					67

13,463 14,411 15,194 12,174 18987